

Irene E. Kaye



Time at JSC: 19 years
Organization: Structural Engineering Division
Position title: Division Chief
Education: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Houston
Place of birth: Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Canada
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? I don't see any major challenge differences between being a female leader or a male leader. We all have to establish technical credibility, integrate our personal integrity and establish our own style that works in our environment.
Words of Encouragement: Do the best you can do for every task you are given, as no task is too small or unimportant. Every large endeavor is made up of multiple smaller tasks that in the end will lead you to your goal.

Yolanda Marshall



Time at JSC: Joined NASA in October 2002; began career as a reliability engineer with the Boeing Company in 1980
Organization: Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate
Education: Texas A&M University
Place of birth: Alamogordo, N.M.
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? My greatest challenge is encouraging my team to see through other's eyes. It is important to understand and respect another's perception and view. Once you understand that perception, it is even more important to be willing to deal with it and improve communication and expectations.
Words of Encouragement: As a leader or manager, you are not alone. When you have a clear vision and you help others to see your vision, they are with you every step of the way. When you have stress, go see your people. I can draw on the people around me and feel their commitment and dedication, and it is very energizing.

Lesa Roe



Time at JSC: 3.5 years
Organization: International Space Station Program Office
Position title: International Space Station Payloads Office Manager
Education: Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, University of Central Florida
Place of birth: Gainesville, Fla.
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? My greatest challenge as a leader, really nothing to do with being female, is motivating people to change, to move to something better – a new way of doing things.
Words of Encouragement: The best advice I have is to get an education and work in experience along the way. Experience in the corporate world will go a long way when you graduate and are looking for full-time employment.

Lucy Yates



Time at JSC: 16 years
Organization: Space Station Procurement
Position title: Manager, Space Station Procurement Office
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Political, Science Texas Tech University; Master's of Public Administration, University of Texas at San Antonio
Place of birth: Alamogordo, N.M.
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? Business functions at JSC are critically important support functions to very technical programs and initiatives. A person in a business role, especially a female, has to be extremely comfortable with the nature of this job and must be able to articulate business requirements critical to every successful program or project.
Words of Encouragement: In your career, as in life, you must persevere. I have never been the smartest person in any room but I'm stubborn to learn and understand and push myself to be smarter. Being stubborn, in this sense, allows you to adapt and succeed in changing environments, to take on new challenges and to succeed in every assignment because you are prepared with relevant knowledge and skills.

Jeanne Newman



Time at JSC: 17 years
Organization: Media Services Corporation/IMPASS Contract
Position title: Manager, Public Affairs Services
Education: Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Broadcasting & Film from Trinity University
Place of birth: Edinburg, Texas
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? One thing that makes my job interesting is the variety of challenges we experience every day. One thing is sure: a challenge can either overwhelm you or give you a chance to engage your creative problem-solving skills. Fortunately I am part of a team that is very good at tackling difficult situations by finding solutions that may not always be the easiest or the most obvious.
Words of Encouragement: Taped to my computer monitor is a bookmark that a co-worker gave me. The bookmark says, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." I believe that. When faced with a difficult situation, we get to choose how we react. It is that choice that can make the difference in the outcome.